

# Identifying Spoofed Numbers

*Learn about how spoofed numbers work and how you can avoid falling for a spoofed number.*

## 1. What Are Spoofed Numbers? How Do They Actually Work?

Spoofing is a technique that is often used by scammers. Spoofing is when a caller deliberately fakes their actual number in order to conceal their identity from your caller ID.

Spoofing is fairly easy to do and there are websites and things like prepaid calling cards that people can use to spoof their number and trick your caller ID into thinking the call is coming from somewhere else.

Unfortunately, since spoofing isn't that hard to do, it is an increasingly common tactic of scammers!

## 2. How Can You Watch For and Avoid Spoofed Numbers?

It's difficult to tell if a number has been spoofed. But, you can use techniques and tactics for avoiding scams in general to help you handle calls from spoofed numbers.

Here are some tactics that you can use:

- Make sure to save local businesses and services in your phone as actual contacts. That way you'll be able to tell if you are getting a call from your local dentist or mechanic as opposed to a spoofed number that just looks like a local caller
- Beware of unknown numbers and calls coming from locations where you don't know anyone. Avoid answering those calls and use your voicemail to screen the callers
- Search for unknown numbers. You might get results from others who have received and reported scams or spam calls from that same number
- If you determine that you've received a call from a scammer, block the caller so they cannot contact you again
- If you answer a call from a spoofed number, be wary and never give out any personal information without being sure that you know who is calling you